

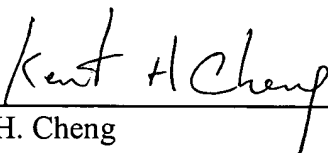
REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-19 are pending in the present application. The Examiner points to patentably distinct species in claims 2 and 3. Applicants herein elect sulfamic acid recited in claim 2 as the nitrite reducing agent, and the dye represented by the formula (10) in claim 3 as the polymethine dye. The claims readable on the elected species are claims 1-19.

The present Amendment also corrects certain typographical and grammatical errors in the claims.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application. However, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,
COHEN, PONTANI, LIEBERMAN & PAVANE LLP

By 
Kent H. Cheng
Reg. No. 33,849
551 Fifth Avenue, Suite 1210
New York, New York 10176
(212) 687-2770

Dated: October 24, 2006